

Volume 15

Issue 3

February 11, 2010

Creating Camelot: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

By Nathan Sharp

This year the junior schools of MBA and Overbrook performed *A Connecticut Yankee* based on the novel *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain. This play was the fifth junior school musical. In this play, the enterprising and young Hank Morgan (played by Chris Burrus) is working on the stage for his school play and gets in a fight with Hercules (a strong classmate played by Nick Trogon). Hank gets knocked out and wakes to find himself in King Arthur's time and now must find a way back.

This play was fun for the audience, and the singing made it even better. Everyone could tell that the actors had been working hard to do a great job on this play, and I am glad to say that they did. Overall, the play ran very smooth with an amazing light

and sound crew, and there were many great parts that were fun for the audience and the actors. Sir Sagramore, a hilarious knight who is amusingly gullible, was played by Bates O'Neal and was one of the funniest characters in the play. Another funny character was Lady Dinadin. She would bring a smile to everyone in the audience's face every

time she laughed her joyful giggle. Lady Dinadin was played by Maggie McCurdy who also did a great job with her character. The Jester, played by Henry Moxley, and Clarence, a kind servant of the king played by Henry Rogers, were two other characters whom

the audience loved. But this play was not all song, dance, and jokes, there were also evil characters. Merlin is an evil wizard who betrays King Arthur (Taylor



Sir Sagramore (Bates O'Neal) captures Hank "the monster" (Chris Burrus)

Adams) after Hank takes his spot as the wizard. I applaud Will Glover for portraying Merlin's evilness so well. There is also Morgan le Fey (Caroline Krumm), the king's evil sister. She plots to take over the kingdom, and she along with Merlin absolutely despises King Arthur.

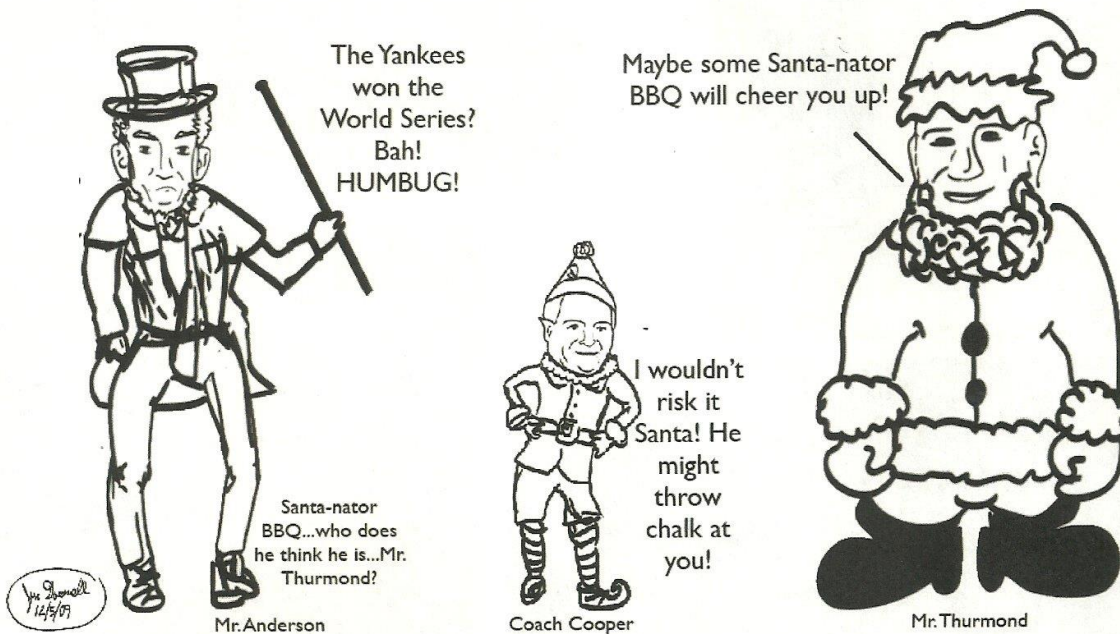
I really liked the play and thought the actors did a very good job. I did not point out any individual singers because everyone sang great and gave it their all. I congratulate every single one of the cast and crew for committing all of the time they did and for putting on such a great show. I give *A Connecticut Yankee* a 10 out of 10.



King Arthur (Taylor Adams) and Queen Guenevere (Gracie Castle)

THE BACK PAGE

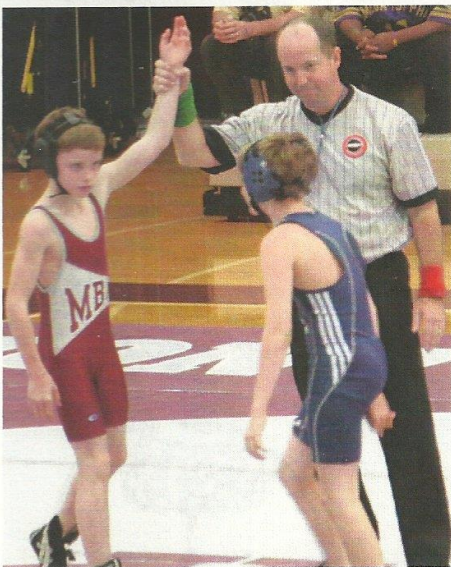
A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL STAFF



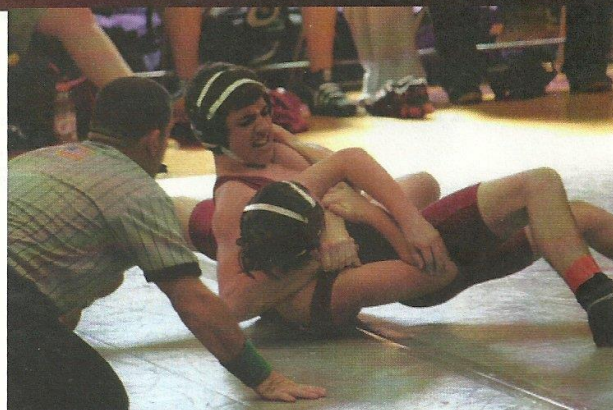
Top of the Hill Staff

Davis Lovvorn and Sam Weien.....Editors-in-Chief
 Adam Biesman.....Features Editor
 Brandon Carpenter and Jordan Pugh.....Sports Editors
 Nick Trogon.....Entertainment Editor
 Bates O'Neal and Cameron Travis.....Photographers
 Jess Darnell.....Cartoonist
 Mrs. Bakken and Mrs. Roberts.....Sponsors

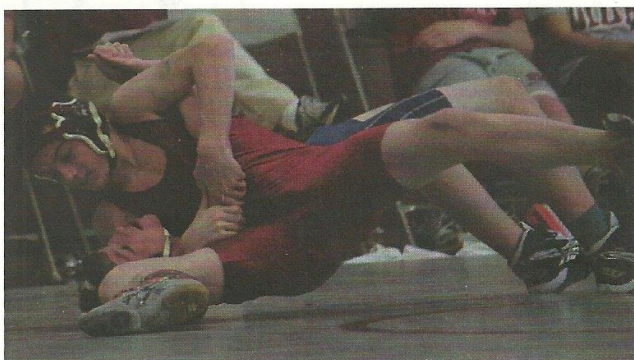
WRESTLING



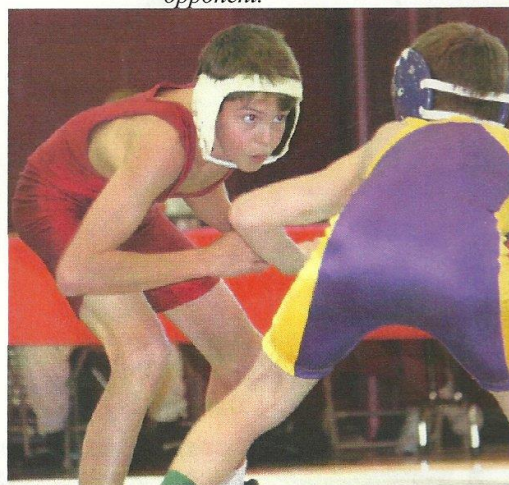
Another victory for Sam Bellet!



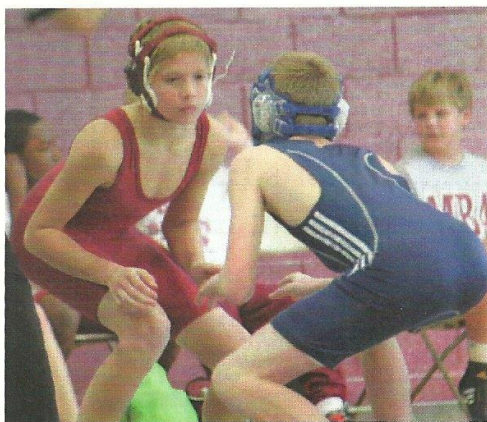
Carson Shaw demonstrates the perfect headlock on his opponent.



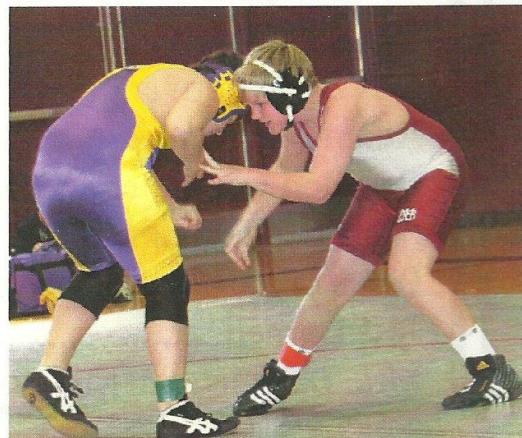
David Smith shows his opponent no mercy!



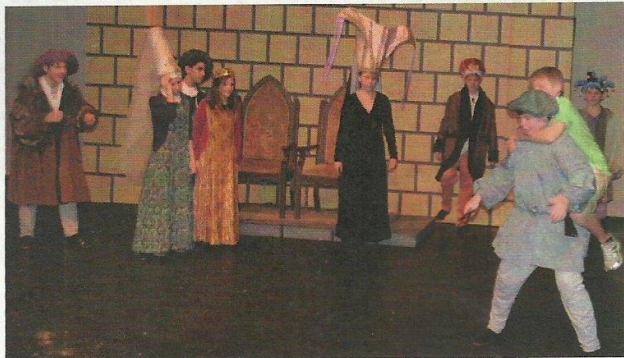
John Tipps is ready for whatever his opponent throws at him.



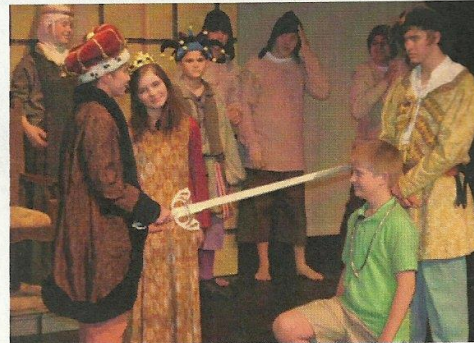
Fearless Microbe wrestlers, Taylor Adams and George Hunt, size up their respective opponents during their duels.



A Connecticut Yankee



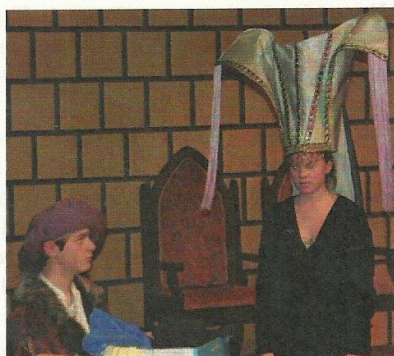
Sir Boss tangles with Sir Sagramore



King Arthur knights Hank and dubs him "Sir Boss"



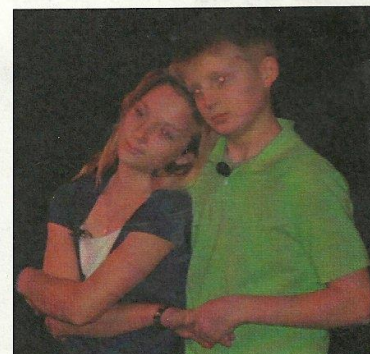
Curtain Call!



I don't think our Camelot t-shirts will fit over your hat, M'lady.

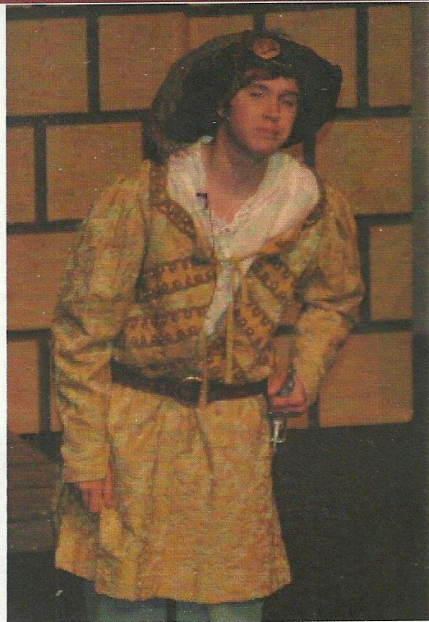


Ms. Catherine Hollifield as Mrs. Benvie



Sandy (Cecilia Bellet) and Hank are reunited.

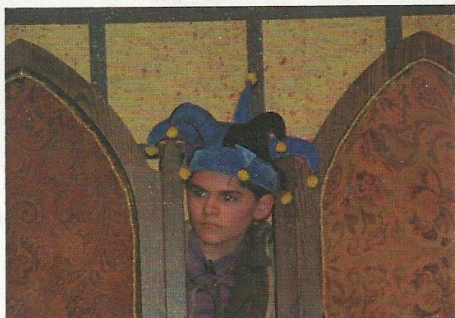
A Connecticut Yankee



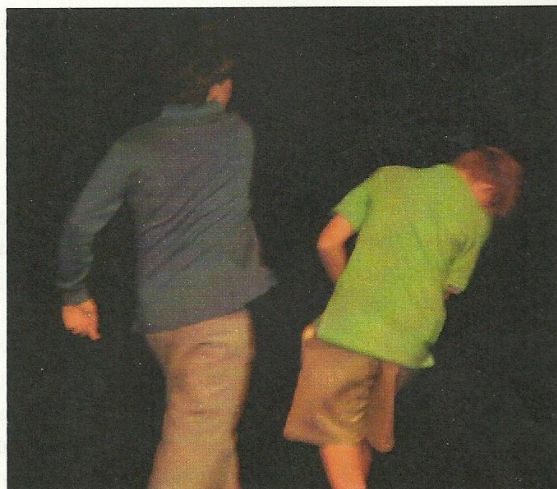
Justin Shafer as Sir Lancelot



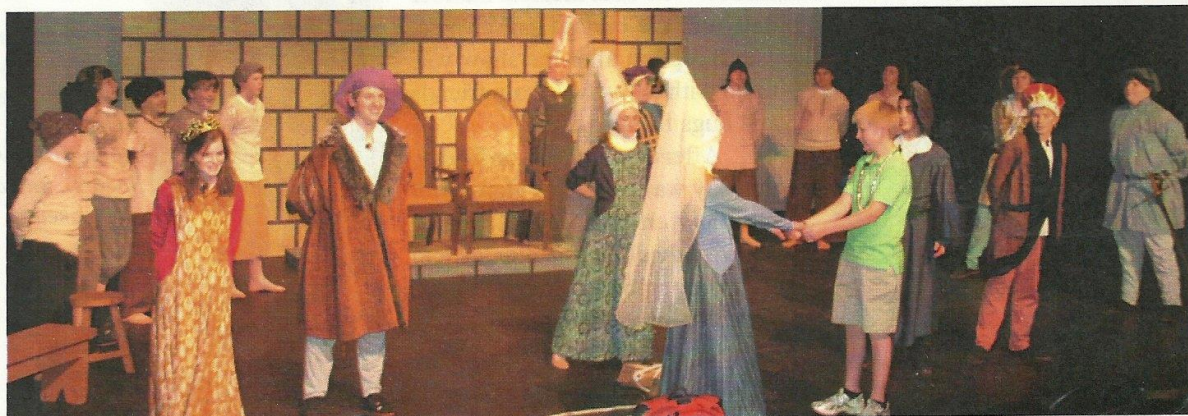
Lady Dinadin (Maggie MacCurdy), Sir Dinadin (Josh Rotker), and Sir Kay (Jess Darnell)



Henry Moxley as The Jester



Hercules (Nick Trogdon) throws the punch that sends Hank all the way back to King Arthur's Court



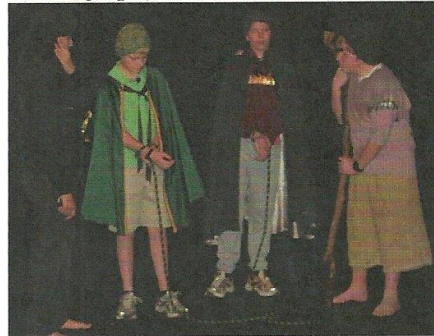
A Connecticut Yankee

An Insider's View of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

By Harry Stewart

The musical, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, was pulled off very well by the cast and crew alike. Even though there were only three weeks to practice after school started, the show was still a success.

After getting back on January 11, everyone was still tired and had forgotten most of their lines. However, after a pep talk from Dr. Seay, all of us worked hard (or at least a little harder). The choreography was hard work, but it



Hank and King Arthur are sold to an old man (Harry Stewart) as slaves.

got better over time.

By the time the week of the play arrived, stress was mounting, but energy was also rising. Come Wednesday, the possibility of the play being cancelled due to snow was taboo. The final rehearsal was a little shaky, but all of us hoped for the best.

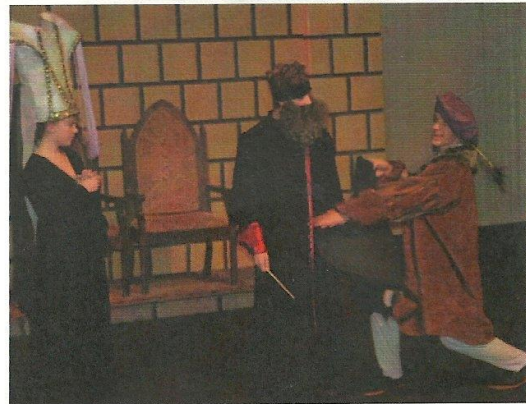
On opening night after a short rehearsal before the show, costumes were donned and tensions were high. As the cast sat below the theater in the rehearsal hall, adrenaline was flowing, and everyone was nervous. Dr. Seay came down and told us that it was time to go, and we all got up and walked up to the theater. Walking through the sound booth, many a silent "good luck" was whispered.

The cue was given, and the cast silently walked out above the audience and began the opening number without a mistake. The show went on smoothly with many laughs from the audience. The final musical number ended, and the curtain call ensued.

The reception after the show was filled with high-fives from friends and hugs from parents.

After the snow day on Friday, the play was cancelled along with the show on Saturday. The play was re-scheduled for Sunday and went very smooth. After the show, a short snowball fight broke out on campus, leaving everyone soaked just in time to go to the after party.

At the party, we watched the first bit of the play on video accompanied by funny comments here or there. After signing posters for each other, everyone went outside to play in the snow. This quickly broke out into a full fledged seventh versus eighth-grade snowball fight. Everyone was very happy with how the play turned out and will cherish those memories forever.

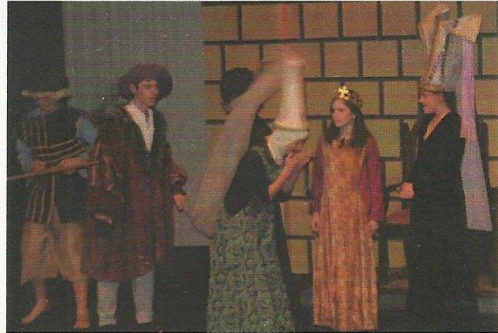


Are you sure you don't want to buy a t-shirt? All the evil wizards are wearing them these days.



The evil queen, Morgan LeFey, turns Clarence, the King's squire (Henry Rogers), into a chicken.

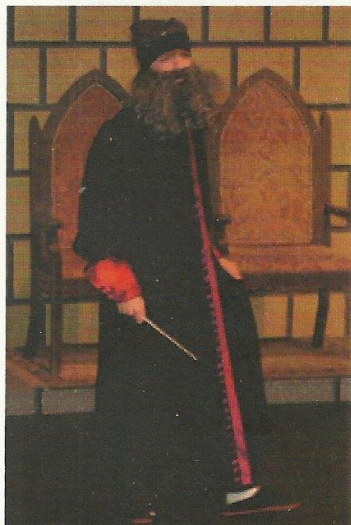
A Connecticut Yankee



Lady Dinadin isn't giggling now!



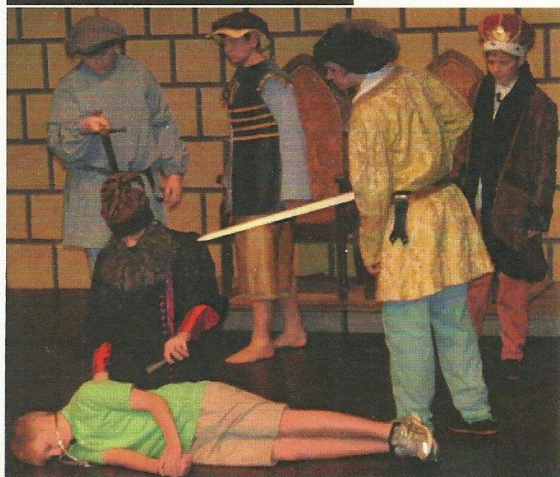
The talented townspeople and courtiers.



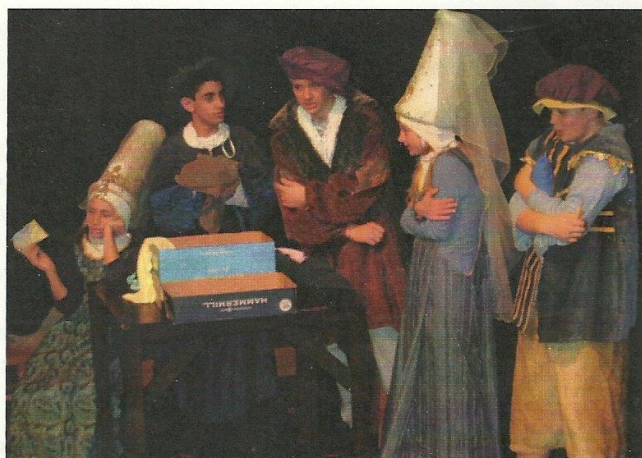
*Will Glover
as
Merlin*



Even in disguise, there is no hiding a king.



Sir Sagramore and Sir Lancelot keep Merlin in line.



Is it cold in here or does someone wicked this way come?

ON THE HILL

Geography

Bee 2010

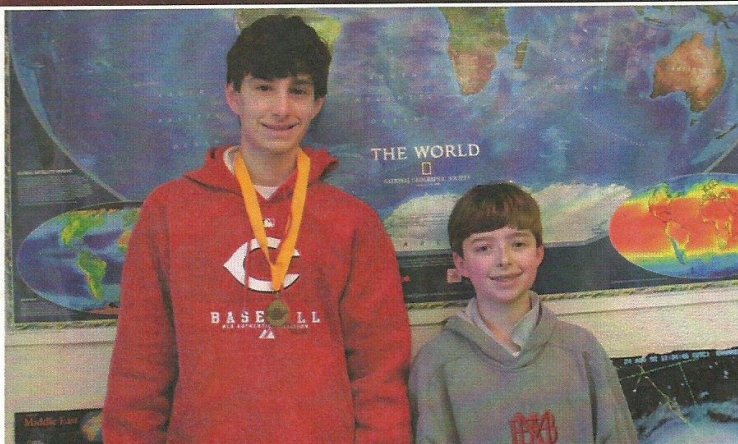
By Sam Weien

During the week of January 11, 2010, seventh and eighth graders tried out for a chance at the coveted MBA Geography Bee crown. The looming question this year: Who could replace Tom "the Tree" Kaiser as the prominent Geo-master of the MBA Junior School? On Tuesday, January 12, the seventh graders tried to win a spot in the final top ten during the first half of lunch. Afterwards, the eighth graders did their preliminary round during the second half of lunch. Since there were four seventh graders, they finished their preliminary round in one day, while the eighth graders, who had around fifteen people, took two days to finish their prelims. When the final scores were added, five people were competing for two spots. It came down to this... a tiebreaker. The magic tiebreaker question:

Which Canadian province borders both the Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes?

5... 4... 3... 2... 1... Ontario!

After the tiebreaker question, only ten were left. The ten finalists were Davis Lovvorn, Ferris Bailey, Wesley Jenkins, Michael Milam, William Richardson, Sam Hurd, Andrew Bittles, Sam Weien, Jacob Lothers, and Sam Papel. The competitors met again on Thursday, January 14 in M28 to have one final battle of geography knowledge. If one missed two questions, he would be out, unless everyone missed his second question.



Wesley Jenkins and Michael Milam

If that happened, everyone would still be in who missed the two questions. Once there were two people left, their slates were cleaned, and there was a three question run-off to determine the winner. The first questions stumped very few of the contestants, but one question was a stumper that everyone missed.

Question: Which body of water borders New Jersey to the South and Southwest?

Answer: The Delaware Bay.

That question eliminated most of the remaining contestants. The question only spared four contestants. The lucky survivors were Andrew Bittles, Wesley Jenkins, Michael Milam, and Davis Lovvorn. Davis and Andrew were eliminated within a few questions, so it was down to two. Michael Milam and Wesley Jenkins were now in a fierce showdown for the MBA Geography Bee crown. The moment was intense when Mr. Russ read off the first question.

Question #1: The Garden Ring, with its eight lanes of traffic, crosses Gorky Park in which European capital city?

Answer: Moscow, Russia. Both Wesley and Michael answered with a wrong answer. The score was 0 to 0.

Question #2: After the US and France, which island country generates the most power from nuclear energy?

Answer: Japan.

Both Wesley and Michael answered correctly so the score was now 1 to 1. Then, there was one last question to decide the champion.

Question #3: Which Mediterranean country is located at the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula and is Europe's leading producer of cotton?

Wesley answered Greece, and Michael answered Spain.

AND THE ANSWER WAS GREECE!!!!

WESLEY JENKINS IS OUR NEW GEOGRAPHY BEE CHAMPION FOR 2010!!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Geography Bee in 2010. Congratulate Wesley Jenkins, and let's hope he does well at state!

ON THE HILL

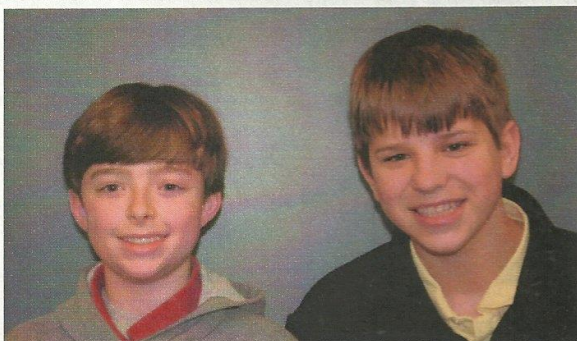
Dynamic Duo Ready for the Bee

By Davis Lovvorn

In Ms. Vaughan's room in early January, the most intense competition had begun: the Junior School Spelling Bee. Although most people only came because of the free candy, the competition was fierce as ever.

However, the bee went quicker than expected. After less than twenty minutes, three competitors were left standing: Samuel Bamigboye, Michael Milam, and me, Davis Lovvorn.

After multiple grueling rounds, Michael and I endured. Since then, we have been preparing intensely for the Davidson County Bee and are ready to do our best, and hopefully, bring a first place trophy back home to MBA where it belongs. The spelling bee will be on Tuesday, February 9th. In the



Michael and Davis are going for gold.

next issue, I will give you, the reader, a first-hand report on the results of the competition.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY! Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th graders

What: Short story composed during the current school year.

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

Due: Wed., April 7

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Ms. Vaughan (8th) or Mrs. Roberts (7th).

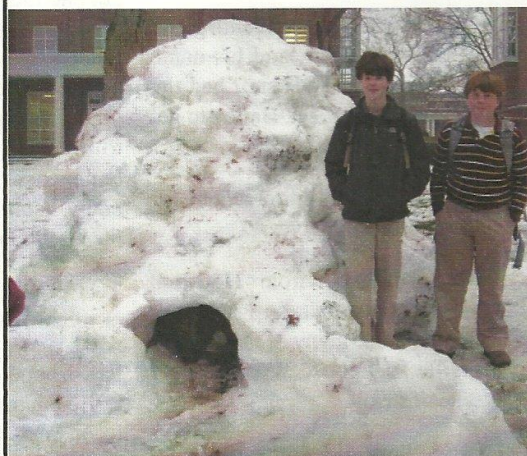
The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest Categories: Poetry and Fiction

Prizes in both categories:	1st	\$50
	2nd	\$35
	3rd	\$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Vaughan (8th) or Mrs. Roberts (7th).

Junior School Entries Due by Wed., April 7.

SNOW!!



On the first day back from a historic two days off for snow, seventh-graders Ethan Yappen and Harry Stewart show off their handiwork. They constructed a life-size igloo in the quadrangle.

Great job, guys!

ON THE HILL



Congratulations guys on a job well done!

Junior Honor Society Inductees

Taylor Adams
 Ferriss Bailey
 Alex Bars
 Ben Barton
 Drew Benson
 Adam Biesman
 Andrew Bittles
 Ross Blackwell
 Christopher Burrus
 Brandon Carpenter
 Kalyan Chadavalavada
 Tristan Chari
 Andrew Dupuis
 Chippy Evans
 Cal Fisher
 David Harrison
 John Higham
 Sam Hurd
 Henry Ingram
 Wesley Jenkins
 Denney Lackey
 Davis Lovvorn
 Chase Mathews
 Mac McDonald
 Hayden Palm
 Nilay Patel
 Will Singer
 Sam Weien

Welcome!

By Henry Rogers

A new student entered the seventh grade at MBA on January 11, and his name is Rahn Bailey. The TOH staff had the honor of interviewing Mr. Bailey to get the inside scoop.

TOH: Where did you go to school for the first semester of the year?

RB: Well, I moved from Houston, Texas this past summer, so I have not had a chance to see many of the schools in Nashville so I chose Woodland for the first semester.

TOTH: So, how did you hear about MBA?

RB: I heard about MBA from Mene Zua, who is also a seventh grader at MBA. Mene's mom and my mom started to talk about MBA, and my mother decided to look into MBA.

TOTH: Why did you choose to go to MBA for the second semester of

seventh grade as opposed to just going your eighth grade year?

RB: Well, I thought that if I can sort of get into the swing of MBA my seventh-grade year while all of the other seventh graders are doing the same, it would be better than coming as an eighth grader when everyone else knows what to do. Plus, I can get adjusted to the homework load gradually instead of being hammered by my homework in the eighth grade.

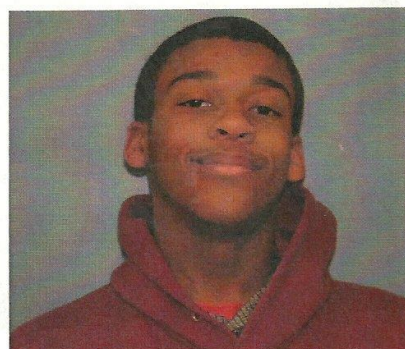
TOTH: What do you hope to accomplish or try at MBA?

RB: I hope to be a part of the football team, the track team, and the basketball team, and I hope to try my best and make good grades.

TOTH: What is your favorite thing about MBA so far?

RB: Well, I really like the sports facilities and working out in the weight room. I also like getting as much food as I want in the lunch room.

Welcome to MBA, Rahn!



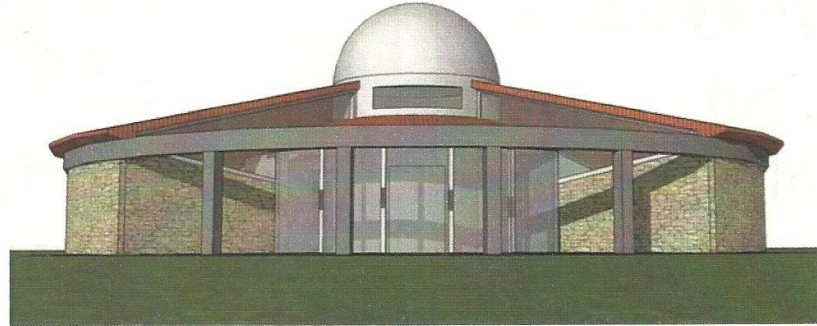
ON THE HILL

New Additions Coming Soon to MBA

By Bates O'Neal

Top of the Hill readers: everything that you have heard is true about the additions to MBA's campus, and I am now bringing you the whole story. Mr. Gioia has given me the inside scoop to pass on. He has informed me about the \$40,000,000 worth of additions to be added to MBA's campus and the property on Long Mountain. The school will be adding a parking garage, a new classroom building with a debate center inside, and another new building at the current location of Wallace Hall which will house a brand new dining hall and classrooms. Also, the current dining hall will be converted into a new music facility, and the land on the opposite side of Brighton Road will have tennis courts and even more parking for big events, serving as an alternative to the parking garage that will be built by the baseball field. With the new land on Brighton Road, the campus is now seven to ten acres larger.

The new facilities will benefit the school and the surrounding neighborhood tremendously. First, the neighborhood benefits are



Rendering of Future Observatory on Long Mountain

that there will be no more parking problems with the new parking garage and parking facilities on Brighton Road. The campus will be more self-contained, and there will be sidewalks added, making for easier transportation along roads, and the campus will look a great deal more welcoming.

Second, there are many reasons that the new additions to the campus will be beneficial for the school. The new classrooms will give every teacher on campus his own classroom. Mr. Gioia and the school are building the debate team a more central headquarters in honor of their great successes. Another athletic field will be added on top of the new parking garage, and the baseball field will be more exciting with a "Big Red Monster" in left field. Maintenance will have a more convenient location in the parking garage, and the rifle team will have a brand new, state of the art facility in the parking garage also. The area where the creek is will be more beautiful by having no trash and tire tracks near it. Also, the dining hall will be fifty percent larger, which

students will be happy about. The music facilities will be in a more accessible location on campus, and it will be fun for students to walk by and watch the musicians play their music.

MBA has more land on Long Mountain too. An observatory will be built as an addition to the current five-acre lake. There will be two more fields added in the hopes of having class retreats. There will also be cabins there for retreats and study places. Some of the classes which might be conducted there would be astronomy with the new observatory or any science classes that are interested in the wildlife and plant life in the area. At first, there will only be enough cabins for single classes of fifteen or so, but later there will be plenty of space for retreats of entire grades. Parents, faculty, and students will be able to use the facilities. MBA's new additions will be great for the school and everyone associated with it.

*Happy
Valentine's Day!*

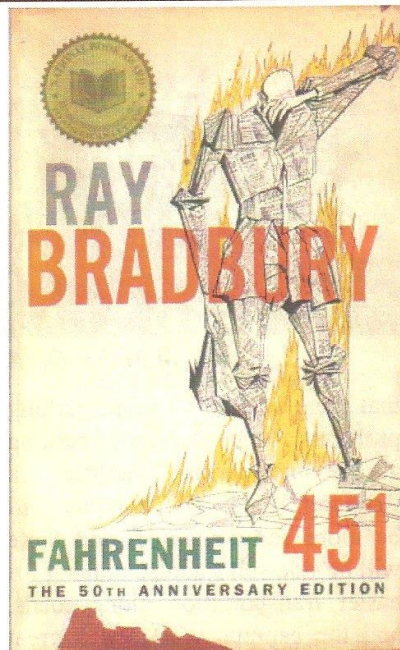
FEATURES

7th Graders Feel the Heat of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit* 451

By Aaron Kaplan

The seventh graders have been exploring Ray Bradbury's novel, *Fahrenheit 451* that tells of a world without books. Guy Montag, the protagonist, is a fireman whose job is to set fire to books instead of extinguishing them. All the firemen just think of burning books as a way of life, but in truth, what they do is devastating to humanity. Guy Montag realizes this and eventually realizes the importance of books. He feels so heartbroken doing his job. Yearning for knowledge, Montag exchanges thoughts with others of great knowledge such as Clarisse McClellan and Professor Faber. Montag risks it all as he experiments with himself and books in an attempt to improve the world.

The seventh-graders were given the opportunity for extra credit points for viewing the MBA High School's theater production of *Fahrenheit 451*, reading the novel, and attending three seminars discussing the book's ideas. The seminars took place on January 13, 20, and 27. The first seminar



was presented by Mrs. Bakken, who explained and discussed the differentiation of rights of others around the world as this corresponds with the people's rights to read books in *Fahrenheit 451*. Mrs. Tilley led the second seminar, giving us a brief history and explanation of banned books through the years. Lastly, Dr. Fuller, the director of the *Fahrenheit 451* high school production, talked to the students about the transition from the novel to the play, and what it was like to perform it.

I believe that the project was indeed a success as shown by the seventh graders themselves. Seventh-grader Anthony Swenson thought that the book was slightly confusing, but overall good, and that the seminars were "interesting and engaging." Michael Milam concluded that the book reading and seminars were a wonderful idea,

and thought that the extra credit encouraged the seventh-graders to read something worthwhile and enlightening. Seventh-grader Kang Huh thought that the book "had lots of twists and turns, but it was still a good read," and ended with, "I'm eagerly waiting, hungry for more."

Mr. Russell, one of the coordinators of the project, gave his opinion on the novel and its messages: "*Fahrenheit 451* is a wonderful text for students to read because it raises pertinent questions about technology, censorship, war, as well as many others that continue to confront civilized countries. It inspires readers to be aware of being human and to think about how we might jeopardize freedoms for the sake of convenience, happiness, and material gain. I hope its characters and conflicts will resonate with our boys for years to come and inform them about who they are as human beings."

Fahrenheit 451 is an incredibly powerful book that encourages all to consider a world without books, imagination, and meaning. There is much to discuss in the book, as the seventh graders have already begun to explore. The seventh graders greatly appreciate the opportunity and the time spent by the teachers to put together the program. *Fahrenheit 451* is definitely a worthwhile read, and one that I highly recommend.

FEATURES

New Drug Testing Not Just for the High School

By William Richardson

I recently met with Mr. Thurmond on the topic of the new drug testing. He gave me details that should hopefully be helpful in answering a few questions about the procedure. Mr. Thurmond said the testing should not affect the junior school any more than the upper school since this is a school wide event. Everyone will be tested but not at the same time. The names will be drawn randomly for testing, and both the student and the parent will be notified. The same percentage of junior schoolers and high schoolers will be

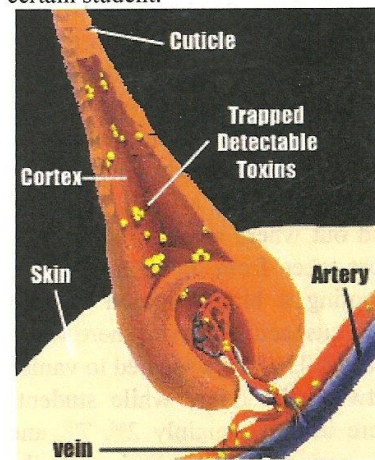
tested. The process of the testing will be both hair follicle and urinalysis.

Hair follicle testing has been proven more effective than urinalysis because drug traces stay longer in the hair than in the bloodstream. The general rule of thumb for the presence of drugs in the hair follicle is thirty days for every half-inch. Hair follicle testing can reveal the use of Cocaine, Marijuana, Opiates (Codeine, Morphine & 6-Monacetyl Morphine), Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and Phencyclidine (PCP). Drug particles can be detected from ninety days after use and longer through hair follicle testing, depending on the speed of hair growth.

Urinalysis is a test of urine. Urine testing mainly reveals the use of marijuana through the detection of THC in urine. The drawbacks of urinalysis are that it may produce false positives and can be less accurate. Some over-the-counter brands of ibuprofen can cause a test to be positive. The test also cannot detect long-term use. The results of these tests can be determined in less

than 48 hours.

Mr. Thurmond said that the most important thing is just not to do drugs or alcohol, even when under peer pressure. That's the message being sent to the junior school. Students that test positive will not be immediately expelled, but the school would like to help them. If the problem continues, expulsion might be in the future for that certain student.



How drugs are deposited in the hair follicle.

Healthcare Reform

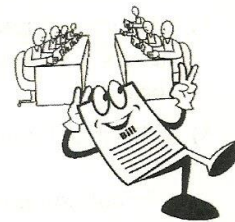
By Jordan Pugh

Healthcare reform has been a very controversial topic over the last few months practically everywhere. The healthcare reform plan involves nearly two trillion dollars in taxpayers' money to institute government run healthcare. There are two separate bills that would add up to the nearly two trillion dollar total. There is an 871 billion dollar Senate bill and a one trillion House bill. One big difference between these two bills is how the law would be funded.

The House bill would enact a tax increase on wealthy American families; possibly an increase of 5.4% on their taxes. However, the Senate bill would increase Medicare charges on families making above \$250,000 and would put a 40% tax on "Cadillac" health plans! Also, the Senate bill would not allow a public option. Another negative for the House Bill is that it would impose an income fine of 2.5% for people who would not purchase healthcare. Poor Americans are exempt from this action.

This bill has been stopped dead thanks to the shocking election of Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts. This seat was formerly held by the late Democrat Ted Kennedy.

This is a message to the Democratic Party that their healthcare reform is not wanted. This opinion is expressed clearly by the state of Massachusetts due to the fact that it has always been a Democratic state. Even if the Senate does not recognize public opinion, they do not have the numbers to pass the bill in the Senate. The only hope that Nancy Pelosi and her party have of passing the bill now is to try and push it through before Scott Brown takes his seat. This idea has already been shot down and the bill is now practically dead.



The Story Continues . . .

Episode III- Retrace to Face-to-Face

By Fletcher Wolfe

The figure had vanished without explanation, so I decided to retrace my steps. The backpack the fleeing figure had thrown was full of stolen and pilfered materials, predictable, and also an extremely helpful lead. I decided to ask around, trying to find out where most of the objects were taken from. In essence, I was shooting a blind shotgun looking for a suspect. However, there was a pattern. The items seemed to vanish between the hours while students were in class, mainly 2nd, 7th, and 8th periods. This eliminated the possibility of any regular student having taken them. Curiously, these periods were filled mainly with electives and study halls. Also, some of the victims claimed that the items were taken directly from their lockers and backpacks. I also found several articles of gym clothing in the bag as well. From this evidence I made three deductions:

- 1) The culprit could not be a student.
- 2) The culprit must have had access to school-issued locks.
- 3) With this, I could institute a trap.

The only surefire way to trap the figure and reveal his face was to

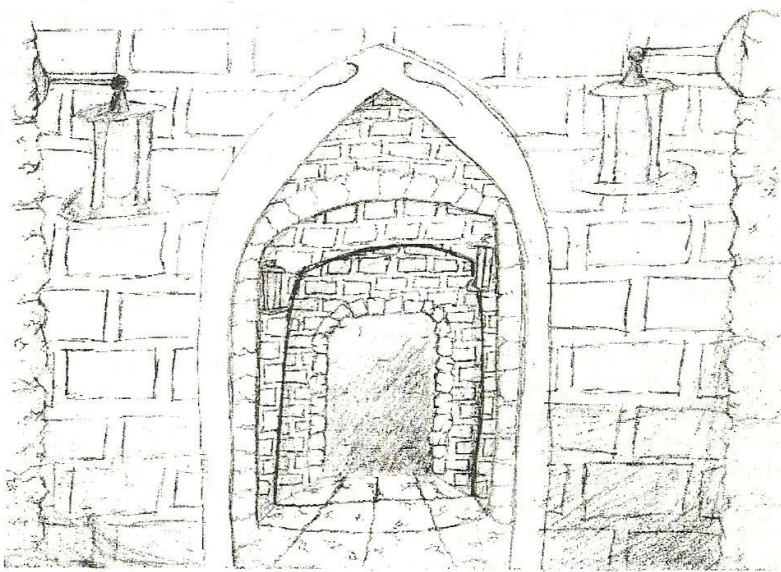
pin him down with brute force. The trap had to be flashy enough to be appealing, but subtle enough to not attract attention. At first, I thought I would use a decoy backpack, but I decided that the captor would disregard an entire backpack. Instead, I settled on a stapler.

It was dark when I got to school. The time when no students or teachers were around was the normal time for the figure to appear. I placed the stapler in the Massey stairwell and waited. The stapler sat, unmoving at the foot of the stairwell. The time seemed to pass without change. The unmoving sheath of plastic stared up from beneath me. Suddenly, something sharp and painful smacked heavily on the back of my head and my face slammed into the metal bars. Then I slipped into darkness.

When I awoke, I was lying on the floor in a closed box. I

seemed to be moving downwards. I craned my neck to look up, but a large boot crushed my windpipe and sent me back to the ground. The floor stopped moving, and I looked up. The door opened, but the figure didn't move. He pushed the down button again, and the door closed quickly. He held the down button for at least three more seconds, and the elevator began to move down again. Then the door opened.

Behind the door, there was a corridor, lit only by dim low-watt bulbs hanging from the ceiling. I felt myself being jerked to my feet. I stood briefly, but my knees soon buckled. A powerful arm thrust me forward. I remember turning and seeing a man with a clean shaven face in large aviator sunglasses, but my vision wasn't so good. Then the black boot slammed into my face.



"This I Believe"

Beliefs Equal Actions

By Austin Rolfe

I believe that what I do in life comes from my beliefs. I believe in many things, some more than others. But my three most important beliefs are the power of love, faith in God, and honesty in every situation. Every time there is a moment to look back, I try to see if I am living out my beliefs.

I believe in the power of love. The strongest feeling of love I have ever felt was the time when I was in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital at the age of eight. After being diagnosed with Rocky Mountain spotted fever, meningitis, and swelling of the brain, I was very scared. The doctors came into my room where I was in a coma and told my mom that I was probably not going to make it. But my family stayed with me every minute, and their love gave me hope that I would get out alive. This has taught me to try to love others, even if I don't really know them or like them, because the power of love is greater than the worst situation.

I believe that God is the maker of all things. He judges who will be with Him in heaven, and He has a plan for all of us, including me. He helps me in my time of need and is always there for me. One of the greatest times of need that my family has ever had so far in my life is my hospital stay, my family was moving, and my grandfather was also in the hospital. My faith in God was tested a lot during that crisis that took place that summer because I did not know what to expect at the end of it. I tried to stay in strong faith with God, I prayed and prayed not for me but for my family. I had faith that if I was not there at the beginning of the next school year, that my family would

still be fine without me.

I believe in honesty in every situation. When I was in the hospital, it was hard to tell the truth, but the truth was that I was scared, I didn't know what to believe, and I didn't know what was wrong with me. The people whom I felt I could be honest with were my mom and dad. I do not know if they were always honest about the situation that was going on, but I trusted what they said. Honesty will take you to the truth, and lying will bring guilt.

It is what I believe in that defines me, whether it is learning to love or hoping to survive whatever life throws at me. I have tried to believe in things that will not just change my life, but that will help others also. So I believe in God, the power of love, and the importance of honesty.

The Pull

By Chris Byrne

I believe in the power of the pull. I learned to swim in a warm, blue bottomed, clean pool surrounded by lifeguards, not the cold, deep, dark waters of a mountainous lake. However it was at the lake where my fate in life seemed to change.

My family had traveled to Washington State for a family reunion on a lake near the Idaho border. I had spent the day canoeing, touring the lake, swimming near the shore, and watching others ski and tube. "Chris, do you want to try?" asked my uncle. The thought of spinning around the lake on a tube, bouncing into the air and landing in the refreshing, but deep, water both intrigued and intimidated me. It had been a great day without taking any risks.

Something pulled at me and told

me to try. Fear and doubt gave way to my intrigue and trust in my capabilities. Whipping around the tight curves, airborne, flipping off the tube, floating alone in the middle of the lake, and then getting back on gave me a sense of accomplishment and taught me to trust the pull, the pull in my heart.

Life prior to that hot summer day had been somewhat challenging. I struggled academically. Teachers initially thought I should repeat the second grade. Socially, I wasn't considered cool. I was picked last on teams at recess. I made no goals for our soccer team and had no baskets the entire season, a fact highlighted by my teammates and surprisingly, the coach.

Several years have now passed since my success on the water, and time has made me believe more fully in the power of the pull. I take calculated risks. I enjoy the thrill of an "A," and the work that gets me there. I practice for hours for the satisfaction of sinking a putt, run for office knowing I may not get elected, and take placement tests for the purpose of the greatest challenge. Now I am inspired by criticism. I'm proud to take the path less traveled, for these are the things that bring me to a higher level.

The pull is the internal confidence that lets me try; that tug that tells me to "go for the gusto." I'm not satisfied with what is comfortable, average, or acceptable. The pull inspires me to push myself to envision a better way, to keep working after failure, to not accept how others have labeled me, to get back up on the tube... As I look to my future, perhaps my goals and aspirations can be best captured by the words of Robert Kennedy, "There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were and ask why not." I believe in the pull.

FEATURES

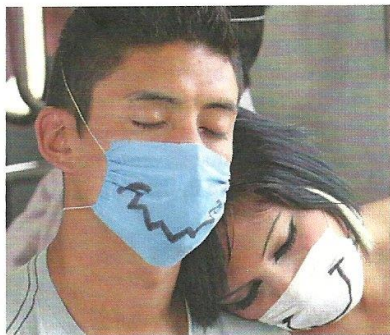
2009: A Thing of the Past

By Kang Huh



2009, like many other years has been etched into history like its good old friends 2008 and 2007. Ah, 2009, it was such a good year, and yet there are just as many negative things to say about it. To begin, I'd like to mention some of the BAD things that have happened this past year. For starters, there was that dastardly SWINE FLU PANDEMIC. You could say our planet was run down in the middle of an already bad economic recession and was held back from recovery by killing 127 people worldwide; scientists had to create a treatment, post prevention signs, and put hand sanitizer dispensers EVERYWHERE. The CDC got freaked out, and Mexico had to shut down their economy for a while too.

There was the Pakistani-Israeli affair where there was temporary violence. Then, there was that dreaded moment at the TSSAA football championship, when some of our die-hard MBA fans were bummed by the fact that we lost to a challenging MUS



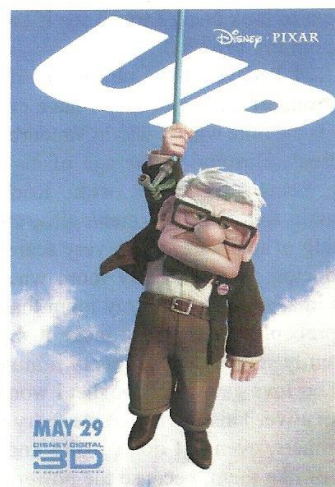
team; but MBA football team and coaches, if you're reading this, you played a great season.

Also, just to name a few of the MANY deaths this past year, some of our greatest idols died, like Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Billy Mays, Patrick Swayze, and Les Paul. Michael Jackson supposedly died because his doctor had prescribed a drug he didn't need. But one of the worst parts of his death is that record companies are trying to make money off the late Michael Jackson with the *This is It* album and movie from Jackson's tour... While this appears to be a greedy move by the record companies, Jackson's family is happy with the production. It has paid Jackson's outstanding debts, and now his kids get to know the REAL side of the late Pop King. Then, Billy Mays died of a cardiac arrest because of the cocaine in his blood. Billy Mays, as some of you may know, was arguably the face of direct-response advertisements, representing OxiClean and other companies made famous by him.

Also in 2009, there have been some little cheaters in the gossip world. The first major incident was Jon and Kate from *Jon and Kate Plus 8* split and went their own ways, Jon with another woman, and Kate with a new show. The second incident which was probably the one we were all into dealt with

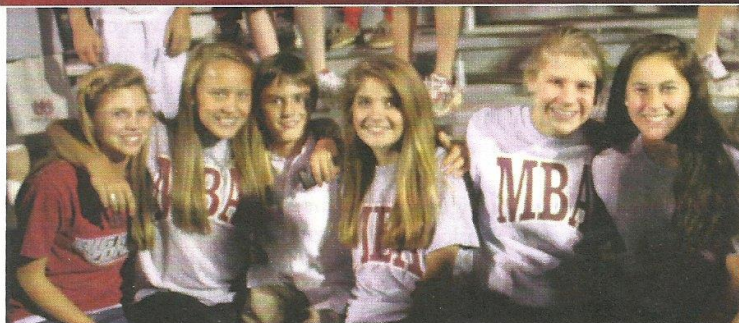
none other than Tiger Woods. As we all know, Tiger had a whopping fourteen total alleged mistresses who have all claimed to have had a relationship with the golfer. To settle the matter, Tiger dropped out of the tournaments for the rest of 2009 and is now being dropped by as a spokesperson by Gillette, Gatorade, and Nike.

To end on a brighter note, some highlights of 2009 made it A-OK. First, there was the inauguration of a new president, Barack Obama, sparking



hope in our depressed civilization. Then there were the good movies like *Up*, Pixar's hit movie about a little scout named Russell and an old man named Carl who has a dream to go to Paradise Falls and encounters numerous problems along the way. Finally, there was *Avatar*, a story about blue aliens who pose a threat to a bonanza of minerals that will make a fortune for humans. Go see it for yourself, because it's worth the money to get in. All right, everyone, let's make 2010 a better year than 2009 (because overall, it wasn't our best year...) and let's fight Global Warming, end the economic crisis, fix health care problems, and make this year awesome.

FEATURES



Dr. Love

By: Mac McDonald

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and I have had a few people ask me what they should give their girlfriend. Valentine's Day is every female's favorite holiday because she expect you to give her gifts galore.

More importantly, the key is to get her what she likes not what you like.

If you have just started dating her then you might want to give her a card and chocolates; However, be sure this gift is not going to interfere with her diet (almost all girls are watching their weight even if they don't need to do so.) Flowers or stuffed animals such as teddy bears always get a great response. If you have been dating for

a while then you should take her out for an intimate dinner for two. This does not mean Five Guys. Girls like candlelight dinners because supposedly it is more romantic. For me, this just means it's dark. If you have been dating your girlfriend from the beginning of time there is no way to get out of the ultimate gift. No doubt, she is expecting "jewelry." You are stuck spending some hard earned dollars on a trinket that she will love such as a bracelet, necklace, earrings, or even a nose ring if that is up her alley. A tip is that costume jewelry is difficult to distinguish from the real thing and costs a lot less.

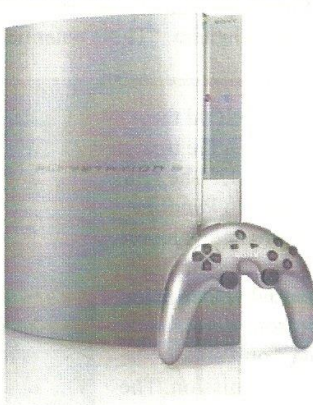
Good Luck and Happy Spending!

XBOX 360 VS. PS3

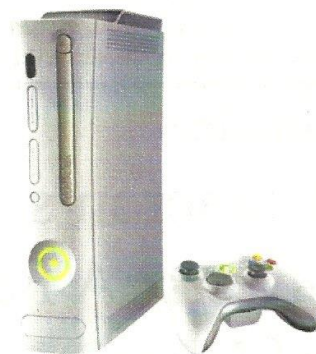
By Jackson Rich/Jrich767

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion over which is the better gaming console, the Xbox 360 or the PS3. There are three main advantages to the PS3: free Wi-Fi connection, free Playstation network, and the built in blu-ray DVD player. The Xbox gets beat straight up on the blu-ray, but the Wi-Fi really isn't that much more expensive than the Xbox when you think about it. You see, a Wi-Fi adapter for the Xbox costs \$60 and an Xbox live membership for one year costs \$50. The PS3 initially costs \$100 more than the Xbox. So when all is said and done, you don't end up paying that much more.

The Xbox and PS3 both have



VS

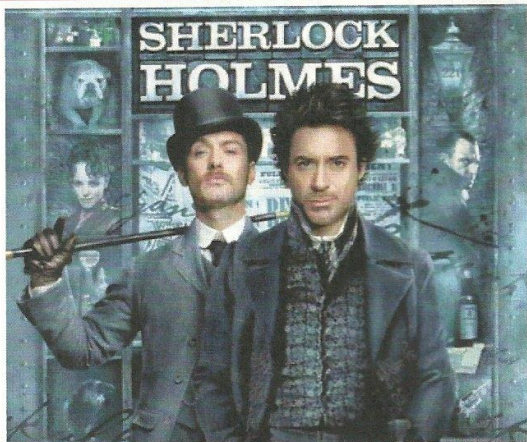


a Netflix "app" which allows you to download movies straight to your console. But only the Xbox has a Facebook "app." Both consoles can be used to download demos for games, but only the Xbox gives you the ability to download whole games. There are a few games that are exclusive to each console. The entire *Halo* franchise is only produced for the Xbox, and for the

PS3 the games include *Little Big Planet* and the *Ratchet and Clank* franchise.

Overall, I'd say that the PS3 is a more family-friendly console with a lot of cool features, and the Xbox 360 is geared towards more intense gaming. I personally prefer the Xbox, but that's just my opinion. Please email me with any questions or comments about this article.

ENTERTAINMENT



Be Sure to See Sherlock!

By Cameron Travis

The movie *Sherlock Holmes* is now showing in theaters everywhere.

Without a doubt this is definitely one of the best films I have seen. It combines action, mystery, and adventure to create something that both entertains and intrigues the viewer. Sherlock Holmes, played by Robert Downey Jr., is the greatest detective in all of England. He observes things that would normally be overlooked by other detectives. But, what would Sherlock be

without his loyal friend and assistant, Dr. Watson? Watson, played by Jude Law, lives with Sherlock in an apartment and tries to keep Holmes from destroying it. These two characters complement each other by demonstrating cunningness, wittiness, and sometimes brawn. Some critics call them "The Dynamic Duo

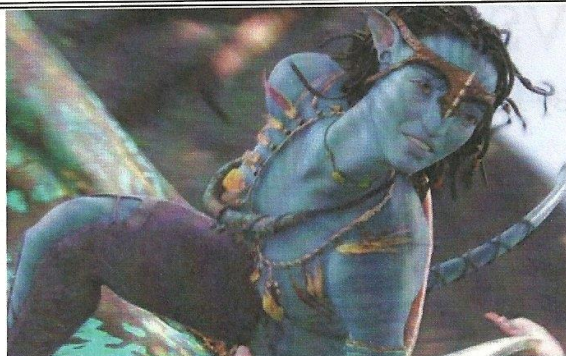
of England!" These two get word of a black magic cult that sacrifices humans, but Sherlock and Watson stop it. The leader is hanged and pronounced dead, but later, Holmes and Watson get the news that this serial killer has risen from the grave. The duo find out that he plans to kill all the men in Parliament; however, before they can stop him, they must find clues that tell them how he came back to life, how he plans to kill these men, where he is, and who he is working with. In this story there are many fights, chases, explosions, and witty banter. This movie will have you feeling like you're actually following Sherlock and Watson on their quest for answers through London. Critics give *Sherlock Holmes*, "Four and a half out of five stars" Some say, "Robert Downey Jr. has never been better!" and "You need to see Sherlock." While others say, "Entertaining for the whole family!" This movie is definitely something you must see!

James Cameron's *Avatar*: A Feat of Movie-Making

By Nicholas Heim

In James Cameron's *Avatar*, the exotic moon of Pandora is in danger. When the Avatar Project, run by the U.S. government, is activated, soldiers are sent to Pandora to become one of the native people, the Na'vi. This activity all revolves around the

evil plot behind the U.S. to gain the trust of these people. The U.S. has come to Pandora for a rare and valuable mineral, Unobtainium. When Jake, a crippled man from Earth, arrives on Pandora, he starts his mission. The Avatar Project turns soldiers into a Na'vi by day and back into a human by night, using a special case. Jake's loyalty to the U.S. quickly changes, and he begins to become one of the Na'vi and helps them fight back. In this epic war on Pandora, a mixture of modern technology and fantasy details collide to create a wonderful story. Just seeing the world of *Avatar* is a full experience itself. Critics are raving about it, and



Fandango is rating it a "must go" by fans. This new way of movie making really is the dawn of a new age of movies. James Cameron has officially announced that a trilogy has been planned, and work has already begun. I would rate this movie 5 out of 5 stars for its amazing music, captivating landscape, and mystical people. This movie is definitely a must see, and everyone will enjoy *Avatar*.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Battle for Late Night: Conan vs. Jay

By Sam Weien

On September 27, 2004, NBC announced that Conan O'Brien would replace Jay Leno in 2009. Little did NBC know that they would cause the nation's first big controversy in 2010. Leno, who was number one in 2004, decided he wanted to retire. Then he pulled a "Brett Favre" and un-retired. Since NBC had already made plans to replace Leno with Conan, they gave Jay a spot at 10 PM ET because he was still a commodity. On May 29, 2009, Jay Leno hosted his last show as the host of *The Tonight Show*... or so he thought. In summer of 2009, Conan took over *The Tonight Show* which aired at 11:35 ET 10:35CT, and in the fall of 2009, Leno premiered with his new show at 10 ET, 9CT. *The Jay Leno Show* didn't do as well as planned, and ratings went down for Jay. In turn, Conan O'Brien's show didn't do as well because Leno's show was not doing as well; soon a feud was brewing that would cause outcries across the nation.

On January 10, 2010, It was confirmed that Jay Leno would go back to 11:35 ET because local news channels were struggling due to his low ratings. In the stated plan, Leno would have a thirty-minute show at 11:35 ET, then Conan would have an hour show starting at 12:05 ET. Conan, who was given no notice about the change, said, "I believe that delaying *The Tonight Show* into the next day to accommodate another comedy program will seriously damage what I consider to



Jay Leno interviews Conan O'Brien on Jay's last show. Little did they know that a battle would form between them seven months later.

be the greatest franchise in the history of broadcasting. *The Tonight Show* at 12:05 simply isn't *The Tonight Show*."

On January 21, 2010, NBC and Conan made a deal that gave Conan thirty-three million dollars and his staff twelve million dollars. Conan has a no-contract clause in his contract that doesn't allow him to sign on to do a late-night show with another network until one year after his departure from

NBC.

On January 22, 2010 Conan hosted his last show. Famous stars like Neil Diamond, Tom Hanks, and THE Will Ferrell showed up at Conan's last show, creating a great ending for a short-lived star. Conan's show only lasted seven months. Leno's show will start on March 1, 2010. People are thinking Fox Network will sign Conan to a deal after one year.

READY TO PERFORM!

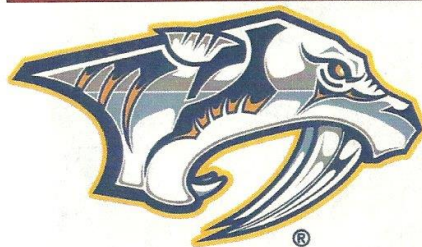
April is National Poetry Month and Time for the Annual Junior School Poetry Competition

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Wednesday, April 21st.

The Seventh-grade winner will face-off against the Eighth-grade winner on Wednesday, April 28th.

Prizes are awarded to each grade level winner. Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.

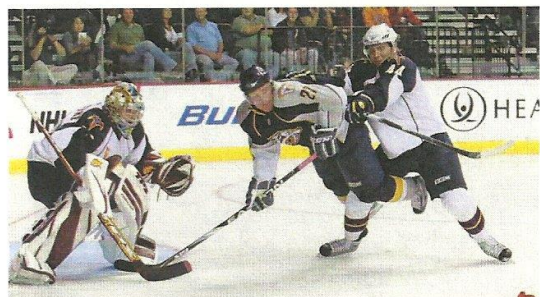
SPORTS



Preds Playing Well

By Nick Trogdon

Nashville's hockey team, THE Nashville Predators, have had an eventful season so far. While the season is far from over, the Preds are doing well. Our current record is 30-21 with three overtime shoot-out losses, and we are currently second in our western division. In our conference, we are seventh; in first place are the San Jose Sharks. Our very first game was against the Dallas Stars, a game in which we won 3-2. Jason Arnott scored against the Stars less than two minutes into the game by getting a goal off of a rebound blocked by the Stars goalie, Turco. The three stars of the game were Dan Ellis, our goalie, Jason Arnott, and James



Patric Hornqvist

Neal.

Our second game was against the Colorado Avalanche. This game was good for one player, Patric Hornqvist, who scored two minutes and seventeen seconds apart in the third quarter. Hornqvist was aggressive the entire game and earned one of the three stars of the game. The other two stars of the game were Jason Arnott and Ryan Suter. The game ended in a 3-2 win with Dan Ellis as our goalie.

Our third game with the Buffalo Sabres was our first home game loss. This game went over badly, and we lost 0-1. Pekka Rinne was an amazing goalie, blocking forty-one of the forty-one shots on goal. He, along with Mike Grier and Ryan Miller, were the star selections for this game.

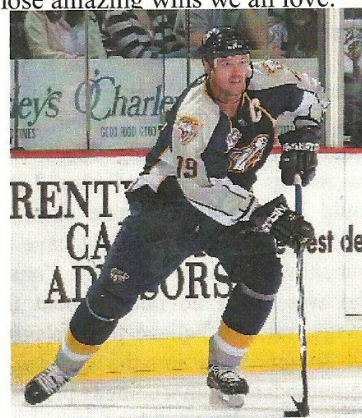
Our next home game was against the Edmonton Oilers; a game we lost 6-1. This game was simply played badly, and the goalie, Pekka Rinne, was taken out and replaced by Dan Ellis in the start of the second period.

The next home game was against a team that we would end up playing a total of six times this season so far. Unfortunately, we lost this game 3-1. However, during this game, player Martin Erat scored a goal bouncing off a player and landing in the net, boosting the team's morale and helping them to play better the whole game.

After a long string of away games, we finally came back home to face the Blackhawks again. This time though, we left the ice with a win. The final score was 2-0 with the stars of the game being Pekka Rinne, Joel Ward, and Cristobal Huet. Ward scored a goal on a second period power play on opposing goalie Huet. Pekka came out with his first shutout of the season, blocking twenty-two goals.

The next game was a positive win with a score of 4-2 against the Dallas Stars; the stars of the game were Jean Dumont, Patric Hornqvist, and Kevin Klein. Pekka made twenty-seven successful shot blocks, and the Preds left with their third consecutive win. The Predators continue their win/loss season with their next opponent being the Sharks on February 6.

The Predators have had a good season with some disappointing losses and some great wins, and while the season is not over, I can safely say I think the Preds have had a good season so far and will continue to play great and chalk-up those amazing wins we all love.



Jason Arnott

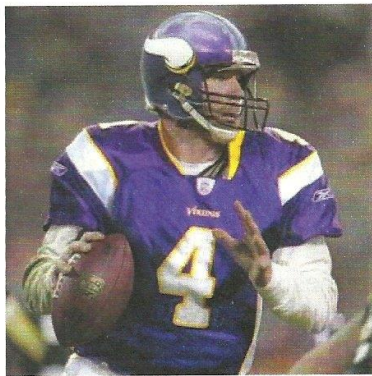
SPORTS

Quite the Performance: The 2009 NFL Regular Season

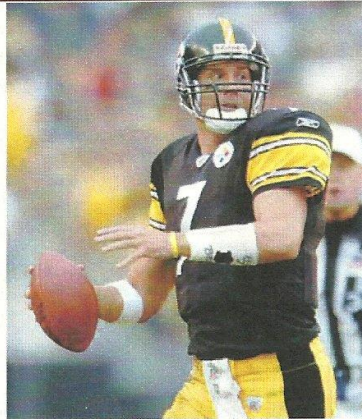
By Chris Byrne

The 2009 NFL regular season began with its usual drama. There were the familiar stars, Super Bowl Champ Ben Roethlisberger, the Colts' Peyton Manning, the much anticipated return of injured Patriot Tom Brady, and the twice retired, forty-year-old Brett Favre, now a Viking. The start of the season brought the debut of rookie Mark Sanchez (Jets), and the opening of the Cowboys' new stadium with its controversial scoreboard.

By week six, four teams had not lost a game, the Colts, Saints, Vikings, and Broncos, coached by newcomer Josh McDaniels.



Brett Favre

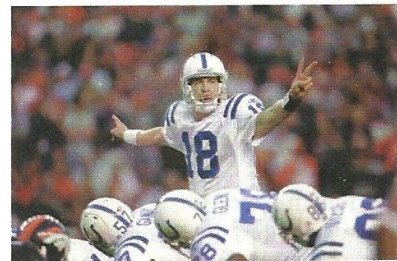


Ben Roethlisberger

However, the following weeks ushered in change. Denver imploded, ending the season 8-8. In contrast, with the return of Vince Young, the Titans won five in a row after beginning the season with six losses and then ending 8-8. The Chargers also had an extremely strong finish, ending 13 - 3; whereas, Pittsburgh lost five of their last eight games, ending the Season 9-7.

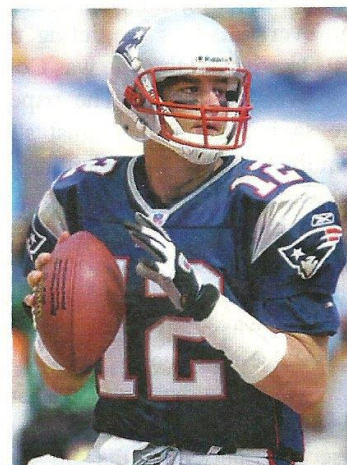
By the end of week seventeen, the dreams of twenty teams came to an end; twelve had won tickets to the playoffs: AFC: Colts (14-2), Chargers (13-3), Patriots (10-6), Bengals (10-6), Ravens (9-7), and Jets (9-7); NFC: Saints (13-3), Vikings (12-4), Cowboys (11-5), Packers (11-5), Eagles (11-5), and Cardinals (10-6). In addition to the success of these teams, there were many milestone accomplishments by week seventeen. To mention a few, ten quarterbacks passed for at least 4000 yards, the most in a single season in NFL history. In addition, twelve quarterbacks passed for at least twenty-five touchdowns, also the most in a single season

in NFL history. Titans' running back Chris Johnson totaled 2509 scrimmage yards for the most yards from scrimmage in a single season. Notable settings which added to the atmosphere of the 2009 season included Brett Favre's return to Lambeau Field as a Viking, and the Colts in Buffalo in December engulfed in snow. However, like any good drama, it is often the personal moments that force us to reflect. When 26-year-old Bengal wide receiver, Chris Henry, one of the



Peyton Manning

league's most hopeful turnaround players, died in a tragic accident, the entire NFL family paused, and we all realized that what is played on Sunday is...just a game.



Tom Brady

SUPER BOWL

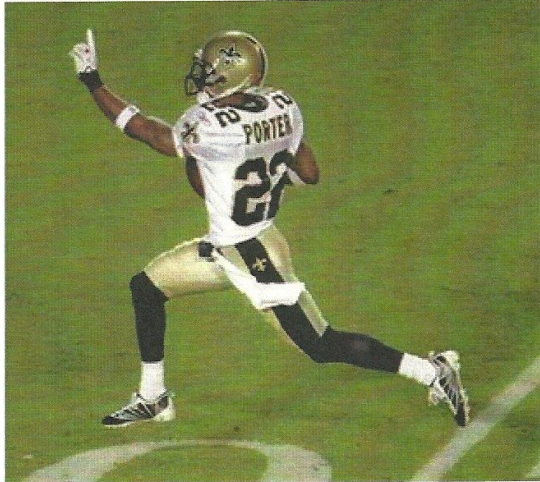
Super Bowl XLIV

By Brandon Carpenter

The end of the NFL season was very exciting. Teams such as the Titans battled for a playoff spot. Some came up short and others succeeded in their task. For a few teams such as the Colts and Saints, the playoffs were guaranteed. The main question for the Colts was if they were going to make a run for an undefeated season and get a Super Bowl Ring. The only other team to do so was the 1972 Dolphins. But to Jim Caldwell, a Super Bowl win was more important than an undefeated season. He said, "(Going undefeated) hasn't been a priority of ours."

The Super Bowl was an exciting one with the Saints appearing in their first Super Bowl and Peyton going for ring number two. Everyone was predicting the Saints to win, but the line was Colts three over the Saints. The papers were saying the Saints must shut down the Colts' Peyton Manning to be able to win the game. Until late in the fourth quarter, the Saints did an awful job with this task. However, with one interception and another pass that was almost picked, the Saints did a pretty good job.

The first half was exciting and close. The two field goals in the second quarter and the shocking onside kick to open the second half gave New Orleans momentum and



New Orleans Saints cornerback Tracy Porter (22) runs the ball after intercepting Peyton Manning for a seventy-four yard touchdown that secured the win for the Saints.

put them back into the game. The two factors for the Colts' loss were the two controversial losses to close the regular season and the terrible second half defense. Several fans disagreed with Caldwell's decision to rest the starters in the last two games. The two losses sucked important life and momentum out of the Colts. The Colts played good defense in the first half holding the

Saints to two field goals. The second half was a nightmare – a completely different defense showed up. The Saints racked up twenty-five points with Brees on route to throw thirty-two of thirty-nine for 288 yards and two touchdowns.

The loss was not Peyton Manning's fault. Even though he threw a critical interception late in the fourth, if the Colts' second half defense had been better, the Colts could have won. Congrats to the Saints for being the 2009-2010

Who Do You Think Will Win The Super Bowl?

Class of 2014 Results

New York Jets – 9.8%
San Diego Chargers – 21.6%
Baltimore Ravens – 11.8%
Indianapolis Colts – **25.5%**
Dallas Cowboys – 2%
Minnesota Vikings – 9.8%
Arizona Cardinals – 2%
New Orleans Saints – 17.6%

Class of 2015

New York Jets – 4.4%
San Diego Chargers – 8.9%
Baltimore Ravens – 4.4%
Indianapolis Colts – **48.9%**
Dallas Cowboys – 6.7%
Minnesota Vikings – 6.7%
Arizona Cardinals – 2.2%
New Orleans Saints – 17.8%

SPORTS

March Madness Part II

By Davis Lovvorn

The college basketball season has not yet concluded, and the season has started off very well. There have been many number one seeds, and the season is obviously unclear as to who will win. Vandy has been a pleasant surprise; UNC has been a terrible disappointment, and teams like Kentucky and Kansas have dominated nearly the whole season. This edition, I will give you my major conference and March Madness tournament winners and brackets. Is your team a winner?

ACC: Duke Blue Devils

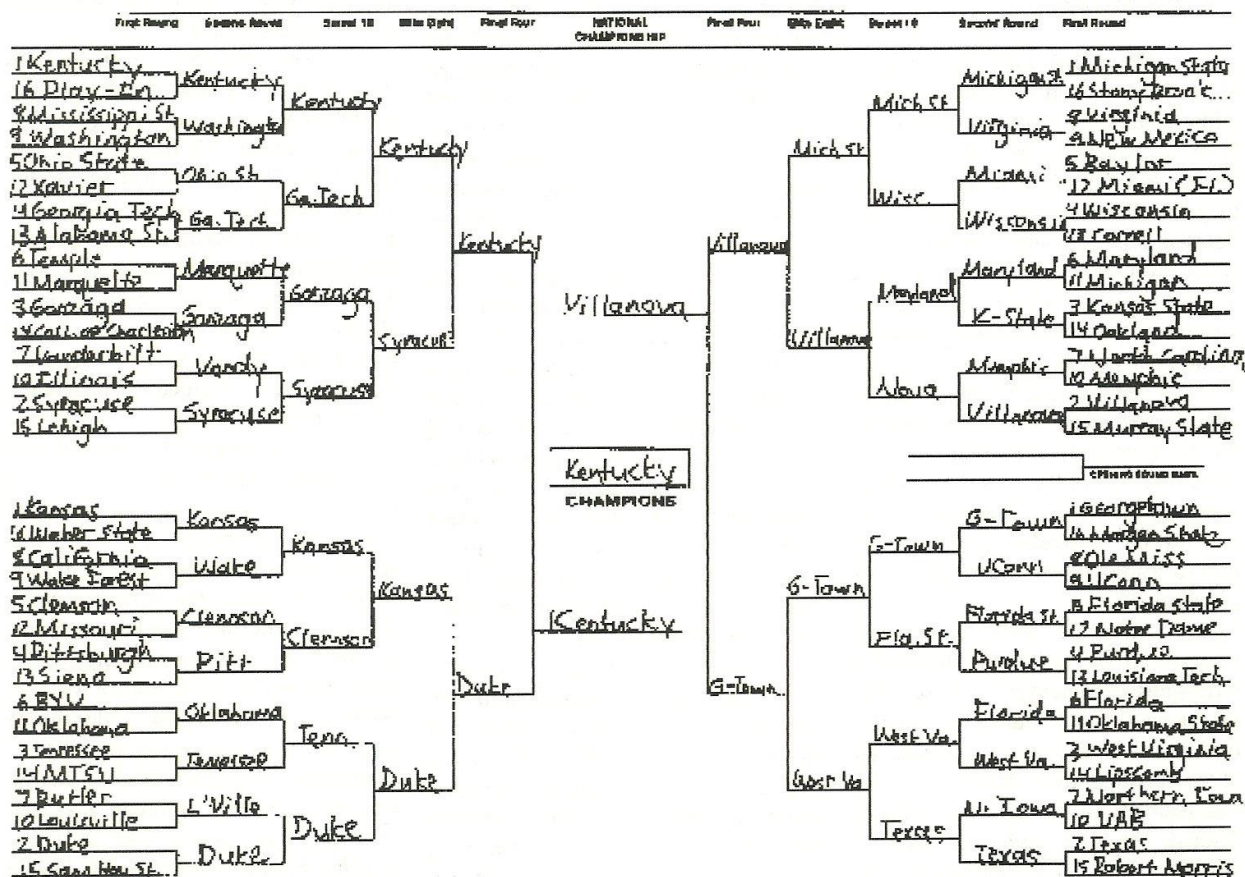
Big East: Georgetown Hoyas

Big Ten: Michigan State Spartans

Big 12: Kansas Jayhawks

Pac-10: California Golden Bears

SEC: Kentucky Wildcats



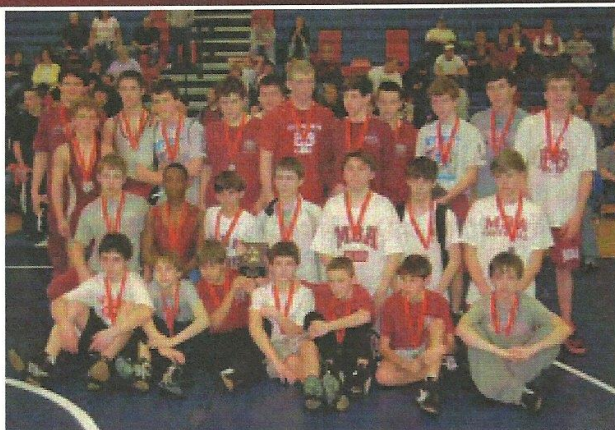
WRESTLING

Masters of the Mat: Microbe Wrestlers Finish Strong

By Ben Barton

The MBA microbe wrestlers entered the second half of the season with confidence after winning the HVAC championships. Because we had to leave at 4:30 in the morning to get to the Cleveland Duels, it was decided that the wrestlers would all sleep over the night before in the wrestling room. While this night is generally remembered for its anarchic nature, one part stood out for everyone who attended. Coach Shone sat all the microbe wrestlers down and gave us the most inspiring speech of our lives. "The first half of the season was about winning the HVAC, but the second half of our extended season is for you to learn to love wrestling" Coach prophesized.

After the early, snowy bus ride, we arrived at literally the hardest wrestling tournament in Tennessee. This tournament was attended by number one ranked in the state Cleveland, the elite wrestling team Baylor, and the best teams from Georgia and Alabama. Though we took fifth, we grew as wrestlers from the experience of being thrown in the deep end. Blake Patton



led the team by pinning three out of his four opponents.

Our next match we traveled to Sycamore. As our coaches had told us, public school wrestlers were athletic and never gave up, but we still managed to bounce back from our tournament defeats and won. Afterwards, we were relieved, for we got a month break from wrestling, and practices restarted halfway through our long winter break.

Missing many starters, the microbe wrestlers then wrestled the truly elite team of Baylor. We lost but got to witness some of the best wrestlers we had ever seen, including their 135, a short, but talented, wrestler who seemed to be always two seconds from pinning anyone from any position. We then faced Nashville Catholic, whom we had beaten for the first time in MBA history earlier this year. Unfortunately, they had new and/or improved wrestlers, and we lost narrowly 54-42.

After that, the microbe wrestlers faced yet another skilled public school, Hendersonville. Though we lost by two points, Blake Patton showed us the true definition of courage by pinning the most ripped, intimidating wrestler the likes of which we had never seen. Then, down two starters, we traveled to the Tornado Duels, revisiting old

"friends" McCallie, Baylor, and Nashville Catholic. We had the opportunity to wrestle Baylor again, and many matches that were lost before were won. One highlight of this tournament was Clay Whitson's match against the X team, which was the most entertaining of the season. Unfortunately, due to another injury, we were now down three starters and lost a tight consolation match to Cats Wrestling, taking fourth.

Congratulations to captain Tyler Forcum for going undefeated at this tournament and winning the only match of our season by KO.

The microbe wrestlers then traveled to the Grand Championships at McGavock, showing a great preview for next season. We beat the talented team West Wilson but lost in an epic match against our rival Father Ryan by a few matches, taking second overall. Sam Stallings and Benjamin Barton led the team by going undefeated, pinning all they wrestled. The season ended with a wrestling banquet, where Sam Stallings was awarded "Outstanding Wrestler."

Even though the second half of the season was a tough, excruciating journey, we learned to love wrestling as Coach Shone envisioned. This season gave us hope for the future. With almost all of the starting seventh graders making it to the HVAC finals, we have an amazing seventh-grade class, and we are confident we will win HVAC again. As for our eighth-grade class, we have gained vast amounts of experience from the extended season and will dominate freshman wrestling next year. We would like to thank Coaches Shone, Norton, and Gillespie for our amazing season.

SWIMMING

Swimming Swiftly through a Season of Snow

By Adam Biesman

The Microbe Swim team capped off a season of hard work and improvement by landing third place at the Southeastern Championship Swim Meet. Before this meet, the Big Red participated in two others: one at Tennessee State University and the Excel meet. The team performed exceedingly well at the TSU meet even though it was our first meet, not much practicing had been going on, and some of the team did not participate because they were playing soccer. After a first place finish in this meet, Coach Dobbs and Coach Deutsch had to have an optimistic look for the rest of the season.

Our next meet was in competition for the championship of the city of Nashville. The home-schooled Makos took advantage of a home-pool advantage and dominated that meet, but MBA still finished in second. This second-place victory was a sign that we had many swimmers improving their times and becoming more comfortable in the water which would hopefully help us in the USN meet. Unfortunately,

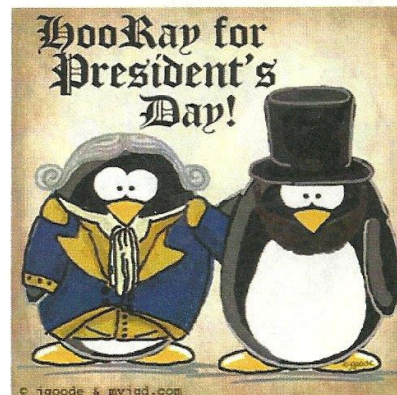


The Mighty Microbe Swim Team at the Baylor Meet

due to a small snow, this meet was cancelled. Many of the swimmers enjoy the USN meet because the pool is only twenty yards which lessens the physical effort needed. Even with this cancellation, the Big Red stayed on top of their game and just kept getting faster and faster in preparation for the big meet.

January 23, 2010, the swim team met at Harpeth Hall to take a two-and-one-half hour bus ride down to Baylor in Chattanooga. This was the moment that we were all waiting for. In this meet, we had many teams who we knew were going to be dangerous opponents such as Dalton Middle and the home-school team from Nashville. After a fun morning of preliminary races, we found out who was going to make it to the final meet. With many competitors in the finals, the Big Red knew we had a chance to win the meet. Miles

Curry, who just started swimming this year, made the finals and got seventh in his event. Many others such as Louis Brown, Kaden Freeman, German Martinez, Andrew Bittles, Jack Grant, Braden Welborn, Cole Jones, and others made the finals. Unfortunately, the Big Red fell short of McCallie and the Makos but still felt good about the end of their season.



MICROBE

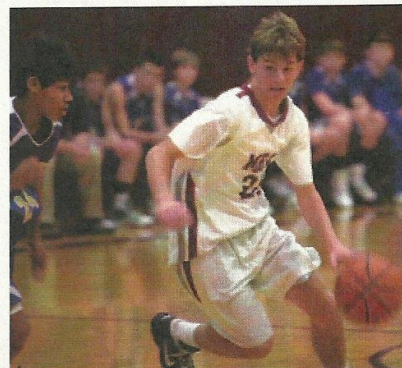
Eighth-Grade Basketball

By Charlie Hawkins

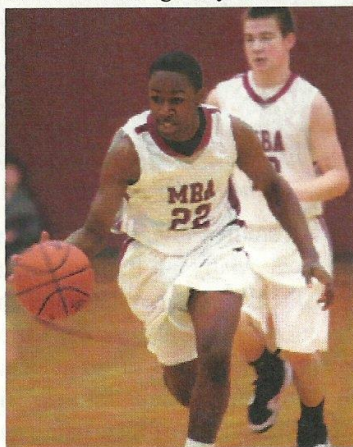
This year's eighth-grade basketball team had a great season. Whether it was clutch wins at Brentwood Academy, BGA, and Ensworth or winning the Overbrook Classic, our players worked hard every day in practice and got better. With great post play from Jay Robertson, Gaines Garrett, and Alex Bars combined with smooth guard play from Duncan Smith, Jordan Roundtree, Murphy Smiley, Sam Bamigboye, and along with the rest of the team, our last year in the middle school was a successful one.

Other wins included a 61-31 win at home against BGA, a 52-36 win at DCA, a 47-28 win at home against FRA, and a sixteen-point win over BA at home. Our only two losses came against a very good CPA team. As of February 8, we are competing in the HVAC Tournament and won our first game against DCA. Our next game is against Lipscomb in the semi-finals

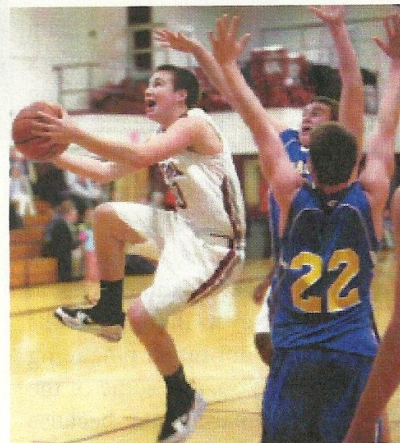
of the HVAC tournament at Ensworth High School. Our overall record as of now is 15-2, but we are not done yet. We potentially have two more games left and are striving to capture the HVAC title with a possible rematch against CPA who we beat once in the Overbrook Classic. Thanks to our coaches, Coach Pettus, Coach Blackwell, Coach Davidson, and our scorekeepers, Dr. Pettus and anyone else who helped out. The eighth-grade basketball team played as a team this season and had a great year.



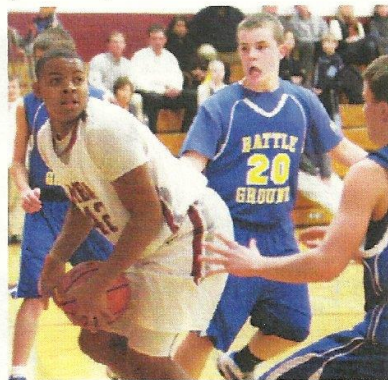
Duncan Smith



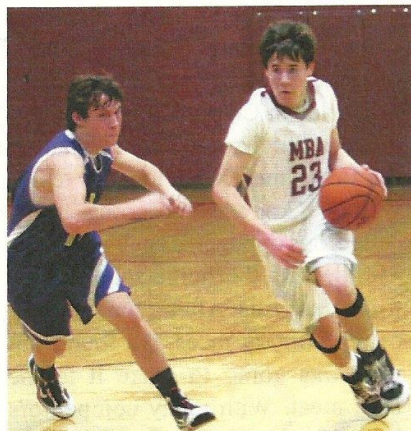
Travonte Easley



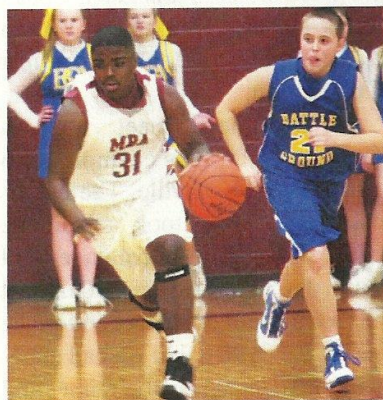
Jordan Roundtree



Jashon Robertson



Vinny Gaglione



D. J. Clark

*Photos Courtesy of
of Bill Gaglione*

BASKETBALL

Seventh-Grade Basketball

By Owen Powell

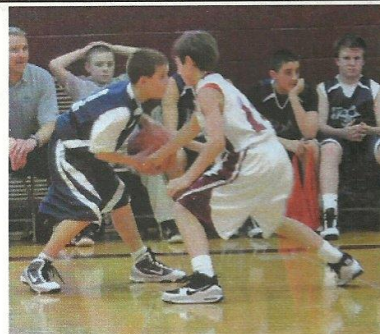
The seventh-grade basketball team was led by first year head coach Matthew Jacques and assistant coaches Hampton Williams and Charlie Howell. The team had a season of ups and downs, but overall, it was a good experience for the team and for each of the players. The team finished 9-4 with losses coming from BA, BGA, David Lipscomb, and CPA, all of which, with the exception of DL, were later taken out by the Big Red.

The teams' goal at the beginning of the season was plain and simple -- go undefeated. In our first game of league play we faced BGA, an opponent that the team had looked upon as an easy win. By the end of the first half we saw ourselves trailing by eight. The team mounted some sort of a comeback later in the game, but it wasn't enough to win the game. This game was a wake-up call to everyone on the team. After that game we had a few big wins and sour losses. Once we realized that we

couldn't just run the boards, we started working harder and became more focused.

On January 12, the Big Red traveled to CPA to play our first game against the Lions. At the end of the first quarter, MBA was leading 21 to 18, and everyone knew it would be a great game. Haynes Young had nine of our twenty-one first-half points, giving us some momentum. The Big Red continued to lead the game, but it was close up until the last few seconds. MBA was up 33-32 with five seconds left; CPA had the ball and was inbounding it. They threw the ball to their point guard as he drove and made a tough fade-away jumper. This loss once again led to more motivation.

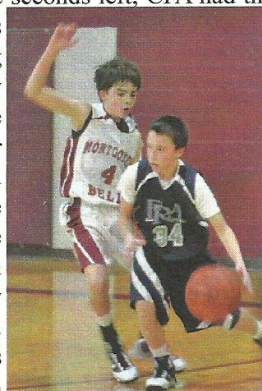
Just a few days later on January 19, CPA drove over to MBA for our second meeting. MBA had been working hard, and we knew we were prepared. At the half it was a one-point game with CPA leading 14 -13. Once again the game was close, and after a key two points from Hudson Crook, the Big Red tied it up with just seconds left. Overtime was soon to come. After having one group in for almost the entire



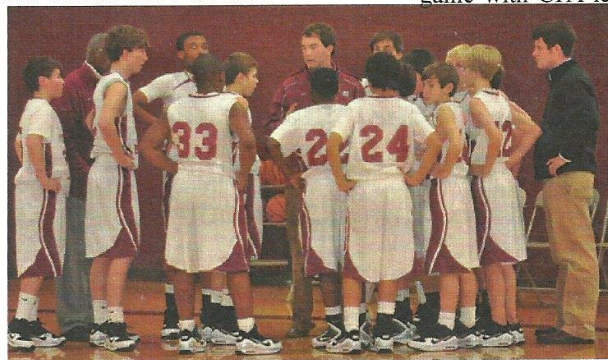
Haynes Young

fourth quarter, Coach Jacques decided to put in five sets of fresh legs. Led by M.C. Poe, the new group gave us a seven-point lead. CPA could not come back, and MBA won 44-37. The important thing we learned from this game was that we could depend on all our teammates to do their part.

The CPA game really gave the team momentum into the next week. Only nine days later, MBA had another shot against BGA. Everyone on the team was excited to get back at BGA. The beginning of the game wasn't what we hoped. BGA took a first half lead of 24-13. At halftime, Coach Jacques and Coach Howell told us that we were the better team, and we just had to play with more intensity. In the second-half, we were a completely different team. The Big Red came back quickly, leading by the fourth quarter 30-28. We continued to dominate and never let them back into the game. The final score was 45-33. Rahn Bailey dominated this game with a blistering nineteen points! Rahn Bailey, as you may already know, is a new student from Woodland, and he has been a key component to our offense. This season has been one with controversy and ups and downs, but it has been a season to be proud of and a season to remember.



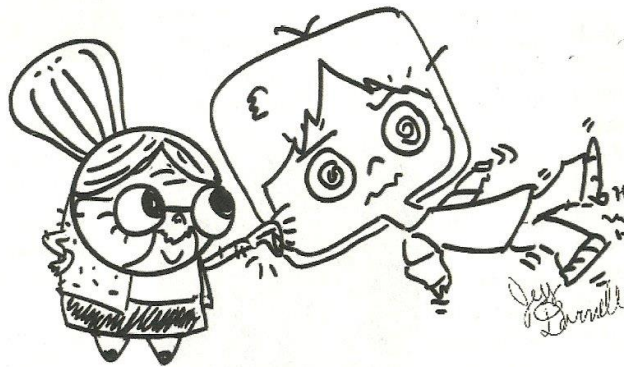
Richard Thornton



Photos Courtesy of Molly Powell

THE BACK PAGE

A GRANDPARENTS DAY WARNING



**THERE ARE CHEEK PINCHERS AFOOT-
BEWARE**

Top of the Hill Staff

Davis Lovvorn and Sam Weien.....	Editors-in-Chief
Adam Biesman.....	Features Editor
Brandon Carpenter and Jordan Pugh.....	Sports Editors
Nick Trogon.....	Entertainment Editor
Bates O'Neal and Cameron Travis.....	Photographers
Jess Darnell.....	Cartoonist
Hank Thomas.....	Graphics
Mrs. Bakken and Mrs. Roberts.....	Sponsors